opera of Paris. The unexpected commentary is that Miss Fuentes had to make believe she was a Japanese in order to secure recognition for her talents, and her experience, sad to relate, has not been the exception but the rule for other Filipina singers. Also conspicuous among Filipino musicians is Jose Mossessgeld Santiago, known to the world of opera as Santiago Font, who was the first Filipino to make successful appearances in La Scala Theater of Milan, the most exclusive operatic institution of Italy.

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE PHILIPPINES[7]

"There is no public opinion in the Philippine Islands." So writers have asserted on sundry occasions. But this assertion will bear reexamination, for like most sweeping statements, it includes more than is strictly true. What is true is that the Filipino people's sentiments are with difficulty transformed into law or policy. What also is true is that as yet the Philippine public is not a reading public. Those who form national sentiment, like political leaders and journalists, are few, and those who take an interest in what the political leaders and journalists are writing are not numerous. But there is public opinion in the Philippine Islands.

The press is without question the most powerful organ for shaping public opinion. In the Philippines the influence of the press has made steady progress. The first periodical, which was in the nature of a gazette of the Central Government, was founded in 1811. The oldest Philippine journal is *El Comercio* established in 1863, l°ⁿ£ published in Spanish, but now

appearing in English. The journal of Philippine propaganda in Spain was the *La Solidaridad,* established by Graciano Lopez Jaena in Barcelona and published fortnightly, in which appeared the editorials of Marcelo H. del Pilar and other

[7] Section read by Mr. Antonio Escoda, President of the Gridiron Club. See Jesus Z. Valenzuelaj *History of Journalism in the Philip-pine Islands* (1933)*